

Citizen School Transportation Committee

To search diligently for ways to maintain the existing bus transportation department.

Public Hearing

September 19, 2012

CTC Members

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Presentation Agenda

- CTC charge
- Break-out Sessions
- Citizen Comments
- CTC Committee Meeting
(time permitting)

CTC Charge

To search diligently for ways to maintain the existing bus transportation department.



Areas of Research

- Safety
- Social Factors and Intangibles
- Level of Service
- Cost Analysis
- Potential Sites

Break-out Sessions



Safety Factors

Mark Hanson, Lisa Bergen



Social Factors

Louise Haldeman, Abe Fisher



Cost Factors

Rick Anderson, Kate Damon

Safety

- Driver Training
- Bus Inspection
- Accidents
- Driver Turnover
- Level-of-Service

FACT:

School buses are the safest mode of transportation for getting children back and forth to school.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STUDENT FATALITIES ANNUAL AVERAGE DURING NORMAL SCHOOL TRAVEL HOURS

TRAVELING BY TEEN DRIVER (58%) (23%) TRAVELING BY ADULT DRIVER



TRAVELING BY SCHOOL BUS (1%)
NHTSA FARS 2001-2008 (FINAL), 2009 (ARF)

Safety

Bus Inspection

Type C and D bus inspection	Out of Service%	Failed %
Concord	1%	13%
First Student Fitchburg	8%	51%
First Student Sudbury	5%	61%

Bus Safety

Bus Accidents

Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles records of school bus accidents 2002-2010	
	proportion caused by school bus driver
Concord	<i>0.31</i>
Lincoln	<i>0.50</i>
Sudbury	<i>0.21</i>
Carlisle	<i>0.50</i>
Bedford	<i>0.56</i>
Lexington	<i>0.47</i>
State Total	<i>0.24</i>

Social Factors

What makes the Concord
School Bus System work?

Personnel

Location

Ownership

Service

Other Uses

Social Factors

Other Uses of Transportation System

- Buses NOT just for getting to school
- Extra-curricular activities
 - field trips;
 - athletics;
 - late buses;
 - private schools; and
 - Concord Recreation summer camp
- Local Emergency Preparedness

Example of bus use on September 18, 2012:

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/concord/thisjustin/x1547508701/Walden-Rehab-in-Concord-evacuated-after-electrical-fire#axzz26qXKzZBv>



Social Factors

The Inconvenient Truths

- September will come year after year.
- There will always be students.
- There must be school buses.
- Fuel costs money and drivers expect to be paid.
- The taxpayer will pay for transportation whether it is run by the schools or contracted to a private company.

Cost Factors

Current Operating Costs

- Current cost to operate transportation department:
around \$1.8m
- Cost of interim plan with maintenance in Billerica,
buses in Acton and management at Ripley
approximately \$400,000/school year
- Outsourcing bids from April 2012 range from
\$2.5-2.6m assuming no change in routes and trips

Cost Analysis

School Transportation

- Reviewed cost analyses published by the school administration
 - In-district Expenses and Projections through 2015
 - Invitation For Bid data from November and April
- Looked at national studies of school transportation
- Goal is to ensure an “apples-to-apples” comparison of in-district vs contract costs

Cost Analysis

Observations about SA “projections”

- Significant cost drivers in school administration’s projections for in-district cost:
 - Personnel benefits estimated at \$288,000 in 2014
 - Accelerated bus replacement schedule
 - 16 buses in 2014 and 2015, at a cost of \$1,520,000
 - Replacement of transportation facility was included
 - Extreme worst-case estimate of \$2,000,000

Cost Analysis

Current Facility

- Approximately 2 acres
- 60 x 65 three bay maintenance building
- 24 x 60 modular office building includes:
 - day room/training room
 - 2 offices
 - reception area



Cost Analysis

Current Facility

- 5000 gallon fuel tank and pumping station



- Safety fencing and lighting



- Additional buildings



Cost Analysis

Facility Replacement

Single Building Solution for maintenance and administration
Approximately 4800 square feet (60x80)

- 2 / 3 bays
- office space
- day room/training room
- reception area
- restroom facilities
- storage area

Rough estimate cost for above structure:

\$480,000-\$600,000 start to finish (foundation thru building completion)

Cost Analysis

Facility Replacement Options

- Option 1: Keep transportation facility on school property
- Option 2: Rebuild everything at the town landfill
- Option 3: Purchase a new site and rebuild everything

Break-out Sessions



Safety Factors

Mark Hanson, Lisa Bergen



Social Factors

Louise Haldeman, Abe Fisher



Cost Factors

Rick Anderson, Kate Damon

Citizen School Transportation Committee

Schedule

Committee Meetings

~~September 27th, 7-9:30pm Harvey Wheeler Center~~

No quorum for above date

Two additional meetings in October, to be scheduled

Presentation to School Committee

October 23, 6:30pm, CCHS Library

Citizen School Transportation Committee

Thank you!

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